

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Gröger, *et al.*

Appl. No.: 10/550,556

Filed: September 23, 2005

For: **Coupled Cofactor-Dependent Reaction Systems in Aqueous Media**

Art Unit: 1651

Examiner: Aaron Kosar

Atty. Dkt.: 7601/84378

Conf. No.: 1889

Response to Restriction Requirement

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, MS Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 12, 2009 in which the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement on the claims of the above-captioned application, Applicants hereby elect restriction group IIa. This includes claims 57-68 which, according to the Office Action received, is directed to "a method of making methanol."

This election is made with traverse.

There are two points that Applicants would like to make in traversal. First, claim 57 is directed to process for producing an alcohol and is not limited to methanol as suggested in the Office Action. Second, the reaction of claims 69-76 is essentially the same reaction as that of claims 57-68 but run in reverse. As such the inventions of the two restriction groups clearly have a common technical feature. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that these inventions

should not be in separate restriction groups or, at a minimum, the claims of group IIb should be subject to rejoinder upon the allowance of the claims in group IIa.

The USPTO has been electronically authorized to charge Applicants' credit card the fee for a one month extension of time for a large entity (believed to be \$130). The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Applicants' Deposit Account No. 50-4056 under Order No. 7601/84378.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a phone call would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (240) 683-6165.

Respectfully submitted,
Law Office of Michael A. Sanzo, LLC

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